

TITLE III—INSPECTION, APPREHENSION, DETENTION, ADJUDICATION, AND REMOVAL OF INADMISSIBLE AND DEPORTABLE ALIENS

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DIVISION D—SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS IMPROVEMENT ACT

TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO SMALL BUSINESS ACT

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DIVISION E—[CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND WATER SECURITY]

TITLE I—CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND WATER SECURITY ACT

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 3, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on October 2, 1996 at 6:00 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he returns without his approval, H.R. 2909, the "Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Eminent Domain Prevention Act."

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives.

SILVIO O. CONTE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE EMINENT DOMAIN PREVENTION ACT—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 104-271)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following veto message from the President of the United States:

To the House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith without my approval H.R. 2909, the "Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Eminent Domain Prevention Act."

This bill would prohibit the use of eminent domain authority for the protection of the public's fish and wildlife resources at portions of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in the States of New Hampshire and Vermont. Because it is unnecessary and would undermine important governmental interests, I cannot support it.

First, the Conte Refuge poses no threat to property owners. Located along the Connecticut River in the States of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont, it represents an entirely new kind of national wildlife refuge. Rather than relying on the traditional approach of acquiring large tracts of land, the comprehensive plan for the Conte Refuge provides that only small amounts will come into Federal ownership—a total of only 1,200 acres in New Hampshire and Vermont, along with conservation easements for an additional 760 acres. Instead of Federal land acquisition, the main emphasis for the Refuge will be on restoring the Connecticut River watershed through voluntary partnerships, cooperative agreements, and environmental education. The Fish and Wildlife Service has no intention of using its eminent domain authority.

Second, this bill would undermine a constitutionally bestowed authority of the Federal Government by prohibiting the use of eminent domain for fish and wildlife conservation. The truth is that the Fish and Wildlife Service almost never uses eminent domain for wildlife conservation purposes—on a nationwide basis, since 1989, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has only used its eminent domain power with the consent of the owner to settle price or title differences. Still, eminent domain remains an important tool of last resort, to protect the public's interest in fish and wildlife resources should unforeseen circumstances arise.

Private property is a fundamental American right and value. But this bill is unnecessary and would erode a constitutional authority that has served the public interest for over 200 years. As stated during debate on this bill in the House of Representatives, H.R. 2909 is a solution in search of a problem.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, October 2, 1996.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The objections of the President will be spread

at large upon the Journal, and the veto message and bill will be printed as a House document.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the veto message of the President, together with the accompanying bill, H.R. 2909, be referred to the Committee on Resources.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

CALENDAR YEAR REPORTS PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Commerce:

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the 1995 calendar year reports as prepared by the Department of Transportation on activities under the Highway Safety Act, the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, and the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act of 1972, as amended.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, October 3, 1996.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER USE OF MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I took this House floor and talked about my concern about military personnel staffing in the Speaker's office and how I felt it ran afoul of House rules. House rules are very clear about who can be allowed to be a fellow, who can be a detailee, or who can be a volunteer. Obviously my real fight is with the Defense Department. Today I will be firing off another letter to Secretary Perry who has been playing games with me for about 6 months claiming, "Well, she's leaving town, so if we just wait long enough, this will go away."

What I want to say to Secretary Perry is every way I read your very own staffing document, all gazillion pages of it, this is also in violation of here. They claim the people in the Speaker's office were assigned to the